



## Office of the Director

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Dear Colleagues:

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today to applaud Mayor Fenty's selection of Marc Schindler as Interim Director of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. I believe that Marc's appointment by the Mayor is not only a tremendous vote of confidence in Marc's abilities, but also in the good work you have all done in reforming DYRS. As the Mayor has said to me directly, Mayor Fenty is fully supportive of the direction DYRS has taken over the past 5 years and nothing could signal that more strongly than the appointment of Marc, who has been such a strong force in promoting those reforms from the very beginning.

Although most of you are familiar with Marc's work with DYRS, you may not know that Marc has a long history with juvenile justice reform on a national level and specific to the District of Columbia. Prior to joining DYRS, Marc served as a Staff Attorney with the Youth Law Center (YLC), a national public interest civil rights law firm dedicated to protecting the rights of young people in juvenile justice and child welfare systems nationwide, from 1997 to 2005. While at YLC, Marc was involved in extensive advocacy on behalf of children in juvenile justice systems throughout the country, including in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. Marc also served as co-chair of the National Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Coalition in Washington, DC, was a founding member of the Justice for DC Youth Coalition, and taught children's rights at American University's Washington College of Law. He has served on numerous boards and commissions including as a member of the ABA's Juvenile Justice Committee (1993-2005), the DC Police Complaints Board (2003-2005), the Maryland Governor's Task Force on Juvenile Justice (1996) and the Committee for Baltimore's Children (1995). He previously worked as an Assistant Public Defender in Baltimore's juvenile court representing children in delinquency proceedings, where he was the recipient of the Cahill Award for outstanding commitment to service and chaired the Juvenile Law Committee of the Baltimore City Bar Association.

Marc began his career in the field more than 20 years ago working with an alternative to detention program in New York City (coincidentally for the same NYC Department of Probation that I will be joining as Commissioner in February) and then in a court-diversion program in Manhattan's Family Court. He is a graduate of Yale University and the University of Maryland School of Law, and has lived in the District for over 10 years, currently residing in the Woodridge neighborhood of NE DC with his wife and two children.

Although leaving is never easy, I depart knowing that I leave behind a great team in all of you, and that the agency is in the hands of a terrific leader in Marc. I wish you all the best in the challenging work you continue to do.

Sincerely,

Vinny



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA